1·25

The Collector's Magazine

Focus on stamps

Eurovision big comeback

Regional, seasonal and sustainable flowers

Fokus

Switzerland reaches for the stars

Photos: ESA, Stephanie Wittmer, Adrian Baer, Swiss Paraplegic Foundation

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Switzerland reaches for the stars

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Cover photo: Balthasar Bosshard – designer of the Eurovision stamp – gives us an insight into his sketches during the process of creating the stamp. Photo: Joan Minder

Photo: Yosia Christen

Diversity in practice

Things are getting colourful: we begin the new year of Focus on stamps with a diverse bouquet of topics. Colourful, fascinating and taken from real life. The new designs reflect various aspects of our society. They feature the variety of species of native flowers, address issues of inclusion and depict a piece of Swiss history – from art and music to the legal system and technical and architectural achievements.

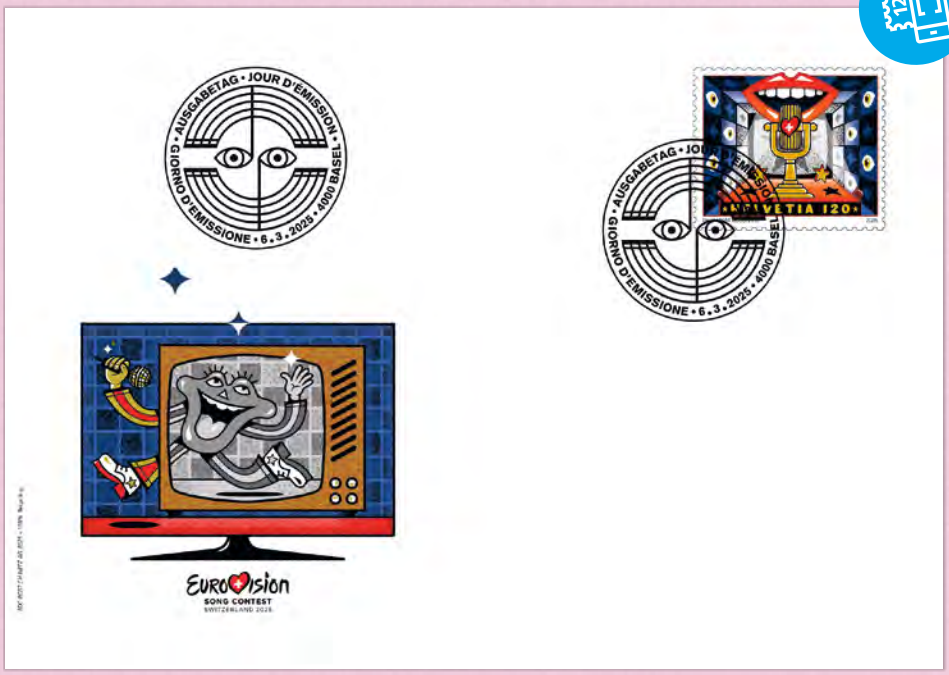
For Swiss Post, diversity is much more than just a buzzword. Diversity is about each person bringing their own perspective to the table – and that's precisely what makes us strong. It's an invitation to look at our world with open eyes and an open heart. With this in mind, I'd like to invite you to discover the new stamps, with their fascinating background stories and people. When you send the stamps, you too are putting these diverse stories out into the world. And simply by looking at them, the recipient can immerse themselves in the designs and enjoy the message – maybe even because there's a direct relationship and they feel connected? In the following pages, we take you on a voyage of discovery into different worlds – and even into space. Let's embark on this journey together – with a sense of curiosity and a clear, open view of what's to come.

Stefan Bühler
Head of Stamps & Philately – Swiss Post

PS: Swiss Post has four internal networks that champion diversity and inclusion: MOSAICO (language), RAINBOW (LGBTQ+), Young Voice (young people) and Women@Post (women).

Special stamp **Eurovision Song Contest 2025**

Scan the stamps and find out more



Single stamp on first-day cover C6

Read the blog post: Eurovision connection across the Alps

The first Eurovision Song Contest took place in Lugano in 1956. To reach all participating countries, the images from the TV cameras first had to get across the Alps. This was done using directional antennas. Key to this was the newly built Jungfraujoch directional beam station. From the late 1940s, PTT had been working on the "Eurovision" connection. In a kind of high Alpine expedition, the directional beam connection was tested on the Jungfraujoch. At the Museum of Communication, you can find a blog post dedicated to this first directional beam connection across the Alps, including for the first time spectacular photographs of the Jungfraujoch.

Go to the blog post

Sheetlet of 10 stamps

Big comeback

In May, the Eurovision Song Contest takes to the stage in Basel, marking the return of the huge event to the country where it was first held. We take a look back at Switzerland's Eurovision history.

Following the first contest in 1956 in Lugano and the 1989 performance in Lausanne, Nemo's victory in Malmö brings the Eurovision Song Contest back to Switzerland, the birthplace of the European music competition. This new stamp gives Eurovision fans, music enthusiasts and collectors something to celebrate as they await the third staging of the event in Switzerland. The design was created by Winterthur illustrator Balthasar Bosshard, independent of the official design. The stage is set for the musical design with a hidden special feature in the sheetlet – can you decipher the code?

Take three: Eurovision and Switzerland

1: How Eurovision came to Switzerland
The Eurovision was first held on 24 May 1956 in Lugano. Back then, the song contest was still called the Grand Prix Eurovision de la Chanson Européenne. The basic idea behind it was to bring Europe together with music 10 years after the end of the Second World War. The efforts to get the project off the ground were driven by Marcel Bezençon, Director General of broadcaster SRG, who in 1955 proposed a concept based on the Sanremo Music Festival, a contest established in Italy at the time. The European Broadcasting Union (EBU), an association of broadcasters that still produces the ESC to this day, gave it the green light. The competitors in the newly founded European song contest were Germany, France, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Belgium, Italy and Switzerland, with Austria, Denmark and the United Kingdom having missed the deadline for registration. During the competition, which lasted 100 minutes, each of the participants was allowed two songs, accompanied by an orchestra. Lys Assia, a world-famous singer and actress from the canton of Aargau, won the first contest for Switzerland with her song "Refrain".

2: Triumph of another global star
Representing Switzerland at the 33rd Eurovision Song Contest in Dublin in 1988 was Canadian-born singer Céline Dion, who won with the song "Ne partez pas sans moi" to bring the event back to Switzerland. In 1989, the city of Lausanne hosted the event and welcomed participants from 22 countries. For the first time, Switzerland's entry was a song in Romansh: the group Furbaz (which translates as "rascals") came in 13th with their song "Viver senza tei". Victory went to the band Riva, representing the former Yugoslavia with the song "Rock Me".

3: First place for the third time
At last year's Eurovision in Malmö, Nemo followed in the footsteps of Lys Assia and Céline Dion with "The Code", leading Switzerland to their third victory in the contest. It means Eurovision, one of the world's biggest music competitions with around 200 million viewers every year, can return again to its country of birth. The 69th Eurovision Song Contest will take place in Basel, with the semi-finals on 13 and 15 May and the final on 17 May 2025.

The performance of the first Eurovision winner Lys Assia

Céline Dion – Ne partez pas sans moi

Nemo – The Code

Photos: Museum of Communication, Bern, FFF_12555, Keystone

Products

Stamps (self-adhesive)

Sheetlet of 10 stamps
★ A621 311 / ⊙ A621 351 / *CHF 12.00*

Single stamp
★ A621 150 / ⊙ A621 550 / *CHF 1.20*

Block of four
★ A621 160 / ⊙ A621 560 / *CHF 4.80*

Covers

Single stamp on first-day cover C6
⊙ A621 580 / *CHF 2.10*

Block of four on first-day cover C6
⊙ A621 630 / *CHF 5.70*

Sheetlet on first-day cover C5
⊙ A621 590 / *CHF 13.20*

Unstamped covers
C6 (162×114 mm)
★ A621 700 / *CHF 0.90*
C5 (229×162 mm)
★ A621 701 / *CHF 1.20*

Folder/collection sheet A5

★ A621 640 / ⊙ A621 650 / *CHF 2.00*

Key
★ mint / ⊙ cancelled

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Validity Unlimited from 6.3.2025

Printing Offset, 5-colour;
Gutenberg AG, Schaan,
Principality of Liechtenstein

Formats Stamp: 33×28 mm
Sheetlet: 115×192 mm
2 rows of 5 stamps

Paper White stamp paper,
with optical brightener, self-adhesive,
on backing paper, 196 gm²

Perforation 13¼ : 13½

Design Balthasar Bosshard, Winterthur

Simply order at postshop.ch

Sheetlet of 10 stamps

Postal card, also available as an unstamped picture postcard

A rail journey through time

All aboard please – next stop: the history of 150-year-old Appenzell Railways.
A journey along the milestones of time.

1875
In the year of its founding, Switzerland's first narrow-gauge railway tunnel, the Heinrichsbad Tunnel, is built between Herisau and Winkeln.

1889
With a radius of 30 metres, the world's tightest rack rail bend is used with a steam locomotive built specifically for it. Switzerland's first narrow-gauge mail car with a post office follows a year later.

1946
Appenzell Railways has Switzerland's longest narrow-gauge vehicle and the world's first dining car with a roof-mounted pantograph. The pantograph allows the carriage to be supplied with power independently even if the power supply to the rest of the train is interrupted.

1990
Appenzell Railways is the first Swiss railway to install enclosed toilets in its passenger carriages.

Scan the stamps and win prizes

Single stamp on first-day cover C6

Photos: Archive Museumsverein AB, Appenzell Railways

2018
Switzerland's steepest adhesion railway line will start operation between St. Gallen, Speicher and Trogen.

2025
Today, Appenzell Railways operates six lines in the cantons of Appenzell Innerrhoden, Appenzell Ausserrhoden, St. Gallen and Thurgau. The team of 240 employees carries some 6.5 million people every year.

2027
Starting in 2027, the Rheineck–Walzenhausen cogwheel railway is scheduled to become the world's first fully automated overland adhesion/rack-and-pinion railway service.

Products

Stamps

Sheetlet of 10 stamps
★ A584 311 / ⊙ A584 351 / *CHF 12.00*

Single stamp
★ A584 150 / ⊙ A584 550 / *CHF 1.20*

Block of four
★ A584 160 / ⊙ A584 560 / *CHF 4.80*

Covers

Single stamp on first-day cover C6
⊙ A584 580 / *CHF 2.10*

Block of four on first-day cover C6
⊙ A584 630 / *CHF 5.70*

Sheetlet on first-day cover C5
⊙ A584 590 / *CHF 13.20*

Unstamped covers
C6 (162×114 mm)
★ A584 700 / *CHF 0.90*
C5 (229×162 mm)
★ A584 701 / *CHF 1.20*

Folder/collection sheet A5

★ A584 640 / ⊙ A584 650 / *CHF 2.00*

Postal stationery

Postal card A6, face value and CHF 1.00 for the card
★ A584 841 / A584 846 / *CHF 2.20*

Unfranked A6 picture postcard

★ A584 911 / *CHF 1.00*
This product is not supplied with the subscription.

Key
★ mint / ⊙ cancelled

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Validity Unlimited from 6.3.2025

Printing Offset, 4-colour; Cartor Security Printers, Meaucé-La Loupe, France

Formats Stamp: 28×33 mm
Sheetlet: 192×115 mm
2 rows of 5 stamps

Paper White stamp paper, with optical brightener, matt gummed, 110 gm²

Perforation 13½:13¼

Design Caroline Inauen and Linda Inauen, Appenzell

Simply order at postshop.ch

Latest news: the ESA space telescope Euclid, in which Swiss research teams play their part, is sending us spectacular images for the most comprehensive 3D map of the cosmos to date. In the first five images in May 2024, Euclid has already registered more than 16 million celestial bodies.

Switzerland reaches for the stars

In this issue, “Focus on stamps” takes a unique look far beyond the universe of stamps: to mark the issue of Swiss Post’s new stamp set featuring the planets of the solar system, we examine Switzerland’s role in space research. It’s the story of a small country with big ambitions in space.

Copy: Hanno Lietz, René Moor / Blueheart AG
Photos: ESA, Keystone

Switzerland, known for its precision and innovation, plays an important role in space exploration and research. From Claude Nicollier, the first Swiss national in space, to the latest technologies on the Mars mission, Switzerland has shown that even a small country can have a big impact in space research.

From the ISS to Mars and beyond

Switzerland’s participation in the space programme is multifaceted, ranging from the International Space Station (ISS) and future projects such as the Lunar Gateway to the ambitious ExoMars and Mars Sample Return missions. Switzerland is involved in the exploration of the Moon and Mars as part of the European Exploration Envelope Programme (E3P). Key players in this programme include several Swiss universities and research institutes, such as the National Centre of Competence in Research (NCCR) and PlanetS, a research centre focusing on exoplanets.

Swiss technology in space

Domestic industry and the Swiss research community make significant contributions to space technology, ranging from development of the structures of the ISS Columbus module to participation in the construction of space stations such as the Lunar Gateway. Swiss instruments such as the radiation monitor on the Gateway and high-resolution cameras on the ExoMars mission to Mars are crucial to their success.

Claude Nicollier, the first Swiss astronaut, went into space a total of four times between 1992 and 1999.

Designed in Bern, the Solar Wind Composition Experiment captured solar wind particles immediately after the first moon landing in 1969.

This Focus article is based on the theme of the current "Our solar system" stamp issue. You can find out more about the ten special stamps on pages 20 – 21.

Innovative strength from Switzerland

Switzerland is also involved in the exploration of Jupiter and its icy moons, as shown by the Juice mission launched in 2023. The James Webb Space Telescope benefits from this expertise. And numerous Swiss companies manufacture key components for international space projects.

Leader in exoplanet research

Switzerland plays a central role in the exploration of and research into exoplanets. Exoplanets are planets outside our solar system. The discovery of the first exoplanet in 1995 by astronomers Michel Mayor and Didier Queloz at the University of Geneva was a milestone, and honoured with the Nobel Prize in Physics in 2019. With its leadership of the CHEOPS mission, which has been accurately measuring the size of known exoplanets since 2019, Switzerland remains at the forefront of this field of research. There are more than 200 planetary scientists working in Switzerland, which is a very high number by global standards.

Funding and the future

The Confederation invests over 300 million francs annually in space travel, enabling Swiss research institutes and companies to develop sophisticated technological expertise. As you can see, Switzerland is heavily involved in space research, based on innovation and international collaboration, all of which makes the country a key player in the space industry.

And who knows? Maybe one day, there'll be a letter box developed in Switzerland on Mars. Whatever the case, we already have the right stamps.

Swiss technology on Mars: the ExoMars rover searches for traces of life – with instruments co-developed by Switzerland.

Marco Sieber – new Swiss astronaut

Following Claude Nicollier, Marco Sieber will be the second Swiss astronaut to fly into space for the European Space Agency (ESA). There were a total of 22,500 applications for the job. Sieber is a urologist, emergency physician, amateur pilot and parachute instructor. He completed his ESA astronaut training in April 2024. By 2030 at the latest, Marco Sieber will take part in ESA missions to the ISS, the Moon and perhaps beyond.

“Switzerland is a partner in demand”

Three questions on Swiss space research for Prof. Dr. Stéphane Paltani, Full Professor at the University of Geneva’s Department of Astronomy.

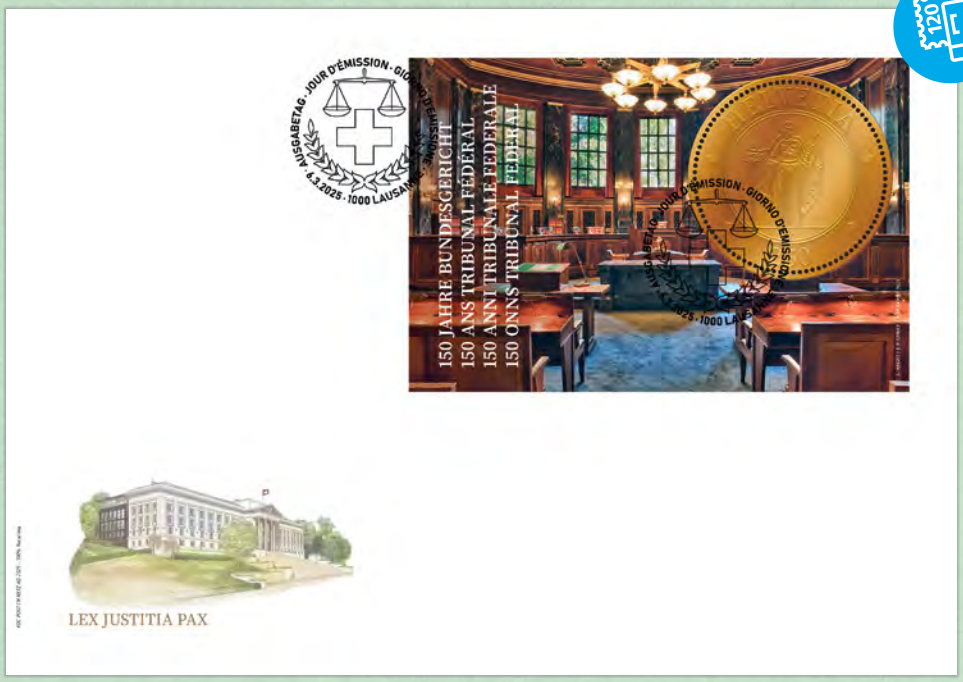
What role does Switzerland play in space research?
Swiss space research covers all areas from the Earth’s immediate environment to cosmology. Most of the time, we take part under the leadership of another space agency, often the European Space Agency (ESA), where we always make real and important contributions. The ESA, the United States, China and Japan are all very interested in collaborating with us. We’re seen as an important and reliable partner because Switzerland's capabilities go far beyond what you would expect of a country of our size.

How important are the missions to the Moon and Mars? And what is Switzerland’s role?
The primary goal of the missions to the Moon and Mars is technology. Getting a human being to Mars and back again safely is extremely difficult. A permanent base on the Moon would be a first step towards achieving that goal. The Swiss space research community is proposing experiments for these missions, and we hope that they’ll be taken up and implemented.

How do you see the future of space research in Switzerland?
The success of the Swiss-led CHEOPS mission has reinforced our desire to lead another, more ambitious mission. At the same time, the diversity of Swiss space research is unique among small countries, and it’s something we must preserve at all costs. That’s why we don’t want to invest all our resources in a Swiss-led mission. My vision is much more about finding the right balance between diversity and leadership.

Miniature sheet **150 years Federal Supreme Court**

Scan the stamp and find out more



Miniature sheet on first-day cover E6

Celebrating justice

This commemorative stamp depicts two central elements of the Federal Supreme Court, which celebrates its 150th birthday in 2025: the grand chamber and Lady Justice, the symbol of justice.

In 1848, the Federal Constitution established the Swiss Federal Supreme Court, the highest judicial authority of the Confederation. But it was not until 1875 that, under a new remit, it became a permanent court based in Lausanne. The Federal Court was initially housed in the Casino de Derrière-Bourg, before moving to the newly built Palais de Justice de Montbenon. Since 1926, it has been located in the Palais de Mon Repos, built specifically for this purpose by the architects Prince, Béguin and Laverrière. The photo on the miniature sheet shows the heart of the building: the grand chamber where public consultations take place. Lady Justice, a sculpture by sculptor Charles-Albert Angst, watches over the main entrance to the court. Working from his sketches, the artist Jean-Paul Gobet produced a medal which is awarded by the Federal Supreme Court both for exceptional services and to mark the retirement of federal judges, and which also inspired the design for the commemorative stamp.

Virtual tour of the Federal Supreme Court

Products

Stamps

Miniature sheet
★ A585 315 / ⊙ A585 815 / *CHF 2.50*

Covers

Miniature sheet on first-day cover E6
⊙ A585 580 / *CHF 3.50*

Unstamped covers
C6 (162×114 mm)
★ A585 700 / *CHF 0.90*
E6 (200×140 mm)
★ A585 701 / *CHF 1.00*

Folder/collection sheet A5

★ A585 640 / ⊙ A585 650 / *CHF 3.30*

Key
★ mint / ⊙ cancelled

Technical information

Sales
Philately: from 27.2.2025
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Validity Unlimited from 6.3.2025

Printing Offset, 4-colour + gold foil embossing and embossing;
Cartor Security Printers,
Meaucé-La Loupe, France

Formats Stamp: Ø 42 mm
Sheet: 105×70 mm
Miniature sheet with a stamp

Paper White stamp paper,
with optical brightener,
matt gummed, 110 gm²

Perforation 13¾

Design C. A. Angst, J. P. Gobet and P. Dudouit, Lausanne

Simply order at postshop.ch

Déjà vu?

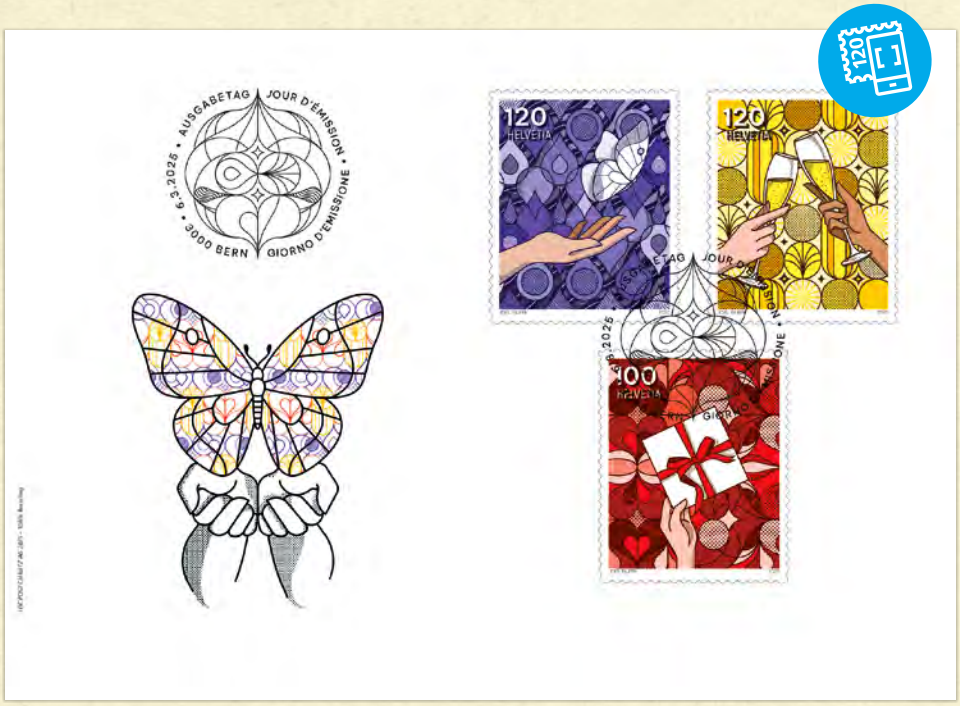
The three “Special events” designs were issued last year. Owing to their popularity, they’re now back for an encore – but this time something’s different.

The designs are unchanged. Hands still play a central role: they offer comfort, attract attention or raise a glass together. Because last year’s designs were so well received, they are being issued for a second time – but now in new colour versions.

The stamp set is designed for emotional messages: “Congratulations” as a greeting for a wedding, birthday or special occasion. “Thanks” as a thank you for a gift, for being there or to stamp a love letter or token of appreciation. “Comfort” lends itself to offering sympathy or lines that give strength.

“Special events” card set with 6 cards and 6 stamps

Scan the stamp and find out more



Set on first-day cover C6

Products

Stamps (self-adhesive)

Sheet of 10 stamps
1.00 Thanks
★ A582 361 / ⊙ A582 381 / *CHF 10.00*
1.20 Congratulations
★ A582 362 / ⊙ A582 382 / *CHF 12.00*
1.20 Comfort
★ A582 363 / ⊙ A582 383 / *CHF 12.00*

Set
★ A582 150 / ⊙ A582 550 / *CHF 3.40*

Set of blocks of four
★ A582 160 / ⊙ A582 560 / *CHF 13.60*

Covers

Set on first-day cover C6
⊙ A582 580 / *CHF 4.30*

Single stamp on first-day cover C6 (3 covers)
⊙ A582 600 / *CHF 6.10*

Block of four on first-day cover C6 (3 covers)
⊙ A582 630 / *CHF 16.30*

Unstamped cover C6
★ A582 700 / *CHF 0.90*

Folder/collection sheet A5

★ A582 640 / ⊙ A582 650 / *CHF 4.20*

Card set

Set of 3 folded cards A6, 3 covers C6 and “Special events” 2024 at CHF 3.40 and “Special events” 2025 at CHF 3.40 stamps (not affixed)
★ A582 951 / *CHF 14.90*
This product is not supplied with the subscription.

Key
★ mint / ⊙ cancelled

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Validity Unlimited from 6.3.2025

Printing Offset, 4-colour; Joh. Enschedé, Haarlem, Netherlands

Formats Stamp: 32.5 × 40 mm
Sheet: 82×270 mm (open), 82×136 mm (folded), 5 rows of 2 stamps

Paper White stamp paper, with optical brightener, self-adhesive, on backing paper, 196 gm2

Perforation Serpentine cut (4 sides)

Design Joel Burri, Zurich

Simply order at postshop.ch

Set on first-day cover C6

Scan the stamps and put together your own personal digital bouquet!

"The illustrator has succeeded in effectively depicting the variety of colours and shapes of the flowers on the small format of the stamp."

Corinne Lutz, Stamps & Philately Product Manager at Swiss Post

Flower power

Diverse and natural: the flowers on these designs reflect the philosophy of the slow flowers movement, which is committed to regional, seasonal and sustainable cultivation and trading of cut flowers.

Whether as a gift or for decoration, flowers bring joy. The arrangements depicted on the new designs also convey the main idea behind of the slow flowers movement: all varieties can be grown and picked in natural Swiss gardens – they are seasonal, regional and sustainable. The spring design features peony, buttercup, sweet pea, garden rose and bearded iris in bloom against a light, mint green background, while the late summer design has dahlia, cosmos, marigold, globe amaranth, coneflower and clary sage in their full radiance.

Special sheet of 6 stamps

“Wilder, more romantic and authentic”

Maja Bartholet came across the slow flowers movement by chance in the United States. Its members include florists and career changers, like her. In 2017, together with like-minded people in Germany, Bartholet helped the slow flowers movement to flourish in the German-speaking world. We talked to her about the goals of the organization and tips on native plants that flower in winter.

Flower farmer Maja Bartholet grows local cut flowers in her garden in the heart of Zurich as a sideline.

Ms Bartholet, what exactly does slow flowers mean?
The slow flowers movement advocates for cut flowers that are free of pesticides and seasonally grown. It’s about preserving variety, gorgeous colours and intense fragrances, which are sometimes lost in highly cultivated flowers. The way I see it, regional flowers allow you to do things that are much wilder, more romantic and authentic, for example for weddings. For the sake of sustainability, we don’t use floral foam or disposable plastic in our arrangements.

Why don’t you use floral foam?
Floral foam is made of plastic and was originally developed as an insulating material for construction. Particles of porous foam can pollute the environment. For example, when a flower arrangement is outdoors in a cemetery, particles will be washed into the ground when it rains. Studies have found residues in marine animals, for example. A better alternative is chicken wire, which can be used again and again.

You’re committed to seasonal varieties. What’s in season in winter?
When it comes to gardening, what we do in winter is ideally the same as nature – hibernate. For the home, dried flowers are a great alternative. I like dried summer flowers such as amaranth, dahlias or strawflowers. In principle, all flowers can be dried. You can create beautiful wreaths with them.

And if you don’t want to go without fresh plants?
Hellebore – also called Christmas rose – flowers at the end of January. You can also sow sweet pea indoors in January. In February and March, it’s then time to sow the seeds of all the spring flowers. I generally make sure I sow the same variety every four weeks to try and keep nature’s fleeting treasures flowering a little longer.

Photo: Stephanie Wittmer

Products

Stamps (self-adhesive)

Sheet of 10 stamps
1.00 Spring
★ A587 361 / ⊙ A587 381 / *CHF 10.00*
1.20 Summer
★ A587 362 / ⊙ A587 382 / *CHF 12.00*

Set
★ A587 150 / ⊙ A587 550 / *CHF 2.20*

Set of blocks of four
★ A587 160 / ⊙ A587 560 / *CHF 8.80*

Covers

Set on first-day cover C6
⊙ A587 580 / *CHF 3.10*

Single stamp on first-day cover C6 (2 covers)
⊙ A587 600 / *CHF 4.00*

Block of four on first-day cover C6
⊙ A587 630 / *CHF 10.60*

Unstamped cover C6
★ A587 700 / *CHF 0.90*

Folder/collection sheet A5

★ A587 640 / ⊙ A587 650 / *CHF 3.00*

Special sheet of 6 stamps

★ A587 990 / *CHF 6.60*
This product is not supplied with the subscription.

Key
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Validity Unlimited from 6.3.2025

Printing Offset, 4-colour; Joh. Enschedé, Haarlem, Netherlands

Formats Stamp: 28×33 mm
Sheet: 100×228 mm (open), 100×114 mm (folded)
5 rows of 2 stamps

Paper White stamp paper, with optical brightener, self-adhesive, on backing paper, 196 gm²

Perforation Serpentine cut (4 sides)

Design Elisa Debora Hofmann, Aarau

Simply order at postshop.ch

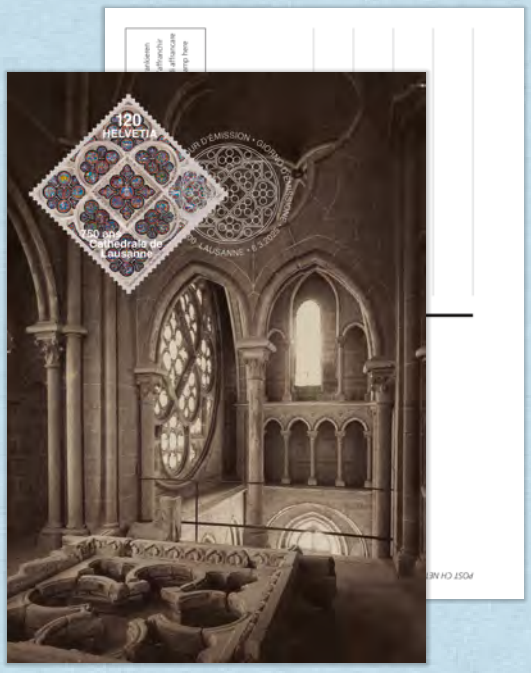
Glass rose

Switzerland's most important Gothic building was consecrated 750 years ago. To mark the occasion, we're taking a closer look at the design of the anniversary stamp, the rose window of Lausanne Cathedral.

The rose of Lausanne

With a diameter of around eight metres, the rose window illustrates the medieval view of the world. Compared to other rose windows, that world view is rarely as pronounced as in Lausanne. Its division of the world view into remarkably complex and geometric figures is influenced by the encyclopaedic works of the time, which arrange the cosmos in this way – with the circle as the main element.

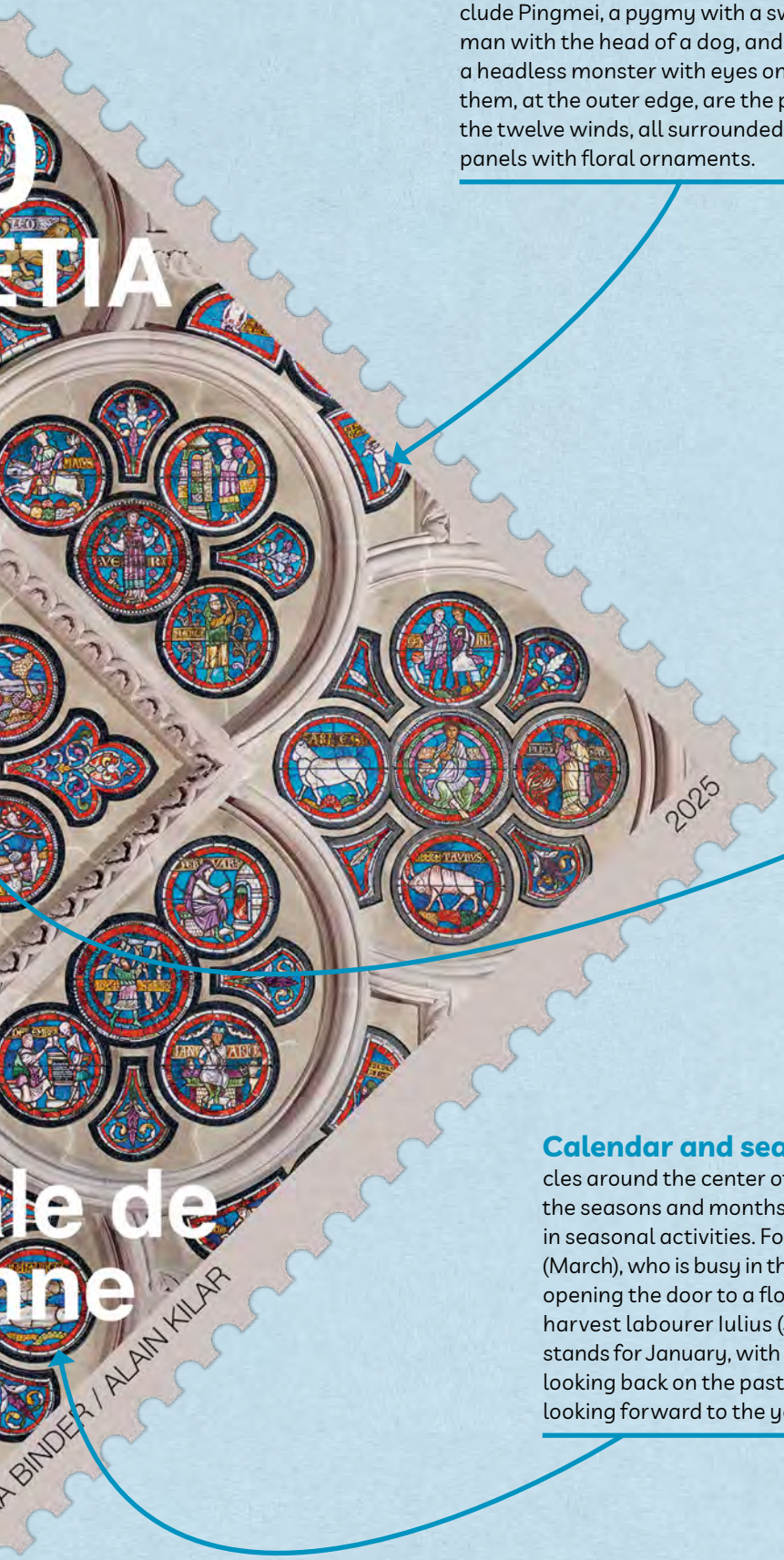
The rose of Lausanne was created between 1205 and 1232. It is thought to be the work of Pierre d'Arras. Large parts of the window are still made up of the glass elements dating from the Middle Ages. Elements that were in poor condition or were lost had to be reproduced. The master glazier Edouard Hosch was commissioned to do this towards the end of the 19th century, Hosch imitated the original style so well that, viewed from below, there is hardly any recognizable difference.



Maximum card, also available as an unstamped picture postcard

Rivers, winds and monsters

The outer ring of the rose is only hinted at on the stamp. Besides the signs of the zodiac, it shows the four rivers of paradise that lie between earth and the universe. They are depicted as sea and river gods surrounded by peoples from distant lands. These include Pingmei, a pygmy with a sword, Cinomologi, a man with the head of a dog, and Oculos in humeris, a headless monster with eyes on its chest. Above them, at the outer edge, are the personifications of the twelve winds, all surrounded by 44 decorative panels with floral ornaments.



In the heart of the rose

Since the medieval stained glass windows in the center were lost, Hosch did not know what the original theme was. He chose to depict God seated on a throne, surrounded by four episodes from Genesis: the division between light and darkness, between land and sea, the creation of the sun, moon and fish, and the creation of animals, man and woman.

Calendar and seasons

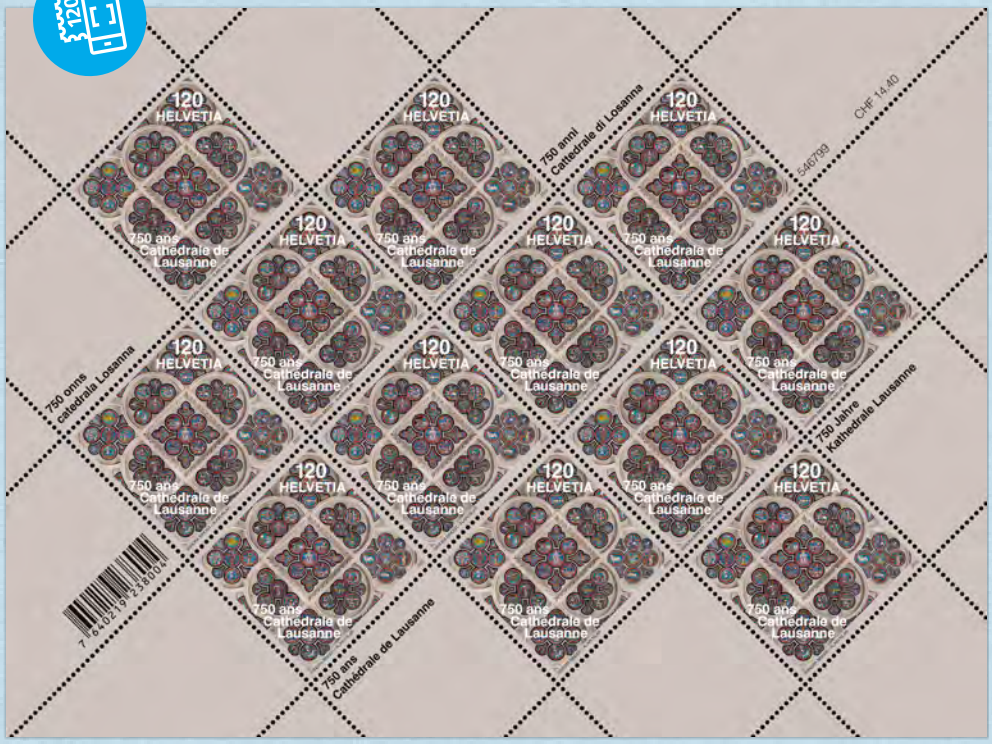
The semicircles around the center of the rose represent the seasons and months – as people engaged in seasonal activities. For example Marcius (March), who is busy in the vines, Aprilis (April), opening the door to a flowering field, or the harvest labourer Iulius (July). Januarius stands for January, with its two faces – one looking back on the past year and the other looking forward to the year ahead.

Simply order at postshop.ch

Special stamp **750 years Lausanne Cathedral**

Single stamp on first-day cover C6

Scan the stamps and find out more



Sheet of 12 stamps

Products

Stamps

Sheet of 12 stamps
★ A583 111 / ⊙ A583 511 / *CHF 14.40*

Single stamp
★ A583 150 / ⊙ A583 550 / *CHF 1.20*

Block of four
★ A583 160 / ⊙ A583 560 / *CHF 4.80*

Covers

Single stamp on first-day cover C6
⊙ A583 580 / *CHF 2.10*

Block of four on first-day cover E6
⊙ A583 630 / *CHF 5.80*

Unstamped covers
C6 (162×114 mm)
★ A583 700 / *CHF 0.90*
E6 (200×140 mm)
★ A583 701 / *CHF 1.00*

Folder/collection sheet A5

★ A583 640 / ⊙ A583 650 / *CHF 2.00*

Maximum card A6

Face value and CHF 1.00 for the card
⊙ A583 851 / *CHF 2.20*

Unfranked A6 picture postcard

★ A583 911 / *CHF 1.00*
This product is not supplied with the subscription.

Key
★ mint / ⊙ cancelled

Technical information

Sales
Philately: from 27.2.2025
to 30.4.2026 or while stocks last
Branches: from 6.3.2025
to 30.4.2026 or while stocks last

Validity Unlimited from 6.3.2025

Printing Offset, 4-colour + cold foil;
Joh. Enschedé, Haarlem, Netherlands

Formats Stamp: 33×33 mm
Sheet: 202×150 mm

Paper White stamp paper,
with optical brightener,
matt gummed, 110 gm²

Perforation 13 ¼ : 13 ¼

Design Photography: Alain Kilar,
Marly (stamp) and Rémy Gindroz,
La Croix-sur-Lutry (first-day cover);
Graphic editing: Sandra Binder, Lausanne

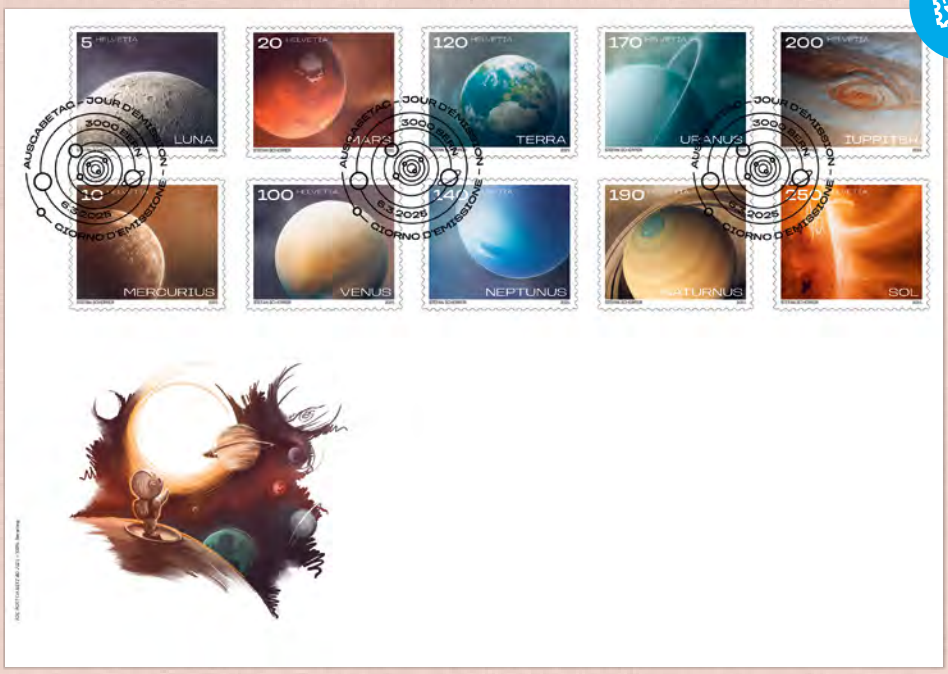
Review of the year in stamps

This unique year book combines original stamps with the impressive visual world created by renowned photographers Cortis & Sonderegger.

Give the gift of lasting memories and experience 2024 in a very special way.

Available now in your Swiss Post branch and at
postshop.ch/yearbook

Scan the stamps and score points in the arcade game



Set on first-day cover E6

Technical information

Sales
Philately: from 27.2.2025
to 30.4.2026 or while stocks last
Branches: from 6.3.2025
to 30.4.2026 or while stocks last

Validity Unlimited from 6.3.2025

Printing Offset, 4-colour;
Joh. Enschedé, Haarlem, Netherlands

Formats Stamp: 33×28 mm
Sheet: 82×198 mm (open),
82×99 mm (folded)
5 rows of 2 stamps

Paper White stamp paper,
with optical brightener, self-adhesive,
on backing paper, 196 gm²

Perforation Serpentine cut (4 sides)

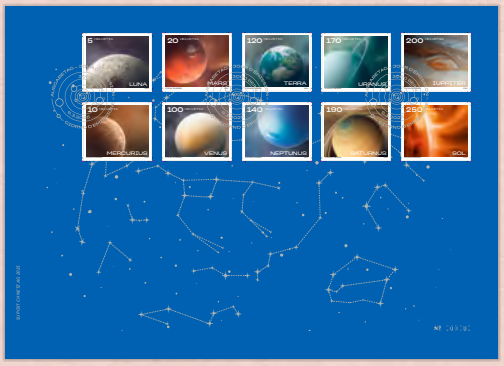
Design Stefan Scherrer, Küblis

Simply order at postshop.ch

ABC of the planets

"My Very Educated Mother Just Served Us Nachos" goes one of the mnemonics for remembering the planets. But how can we explain the solar system in a simple way? These cheat sheets are here to help.

Did you know that a day on Venus lasts longer than a year? Or that a year on Mercury is 88 Earth days long? You will find little scientific factual nuggets like these on the back of the special sheet. It is almost one metre wide, with ten stamps featuring the eight planets, the Sun and the Moon as the main representatives of our solar system. And what was that again about gravity and the Milky Way? The cheat sheets on this double-sided spread shed light on the ABCs of the planets.



Special cover

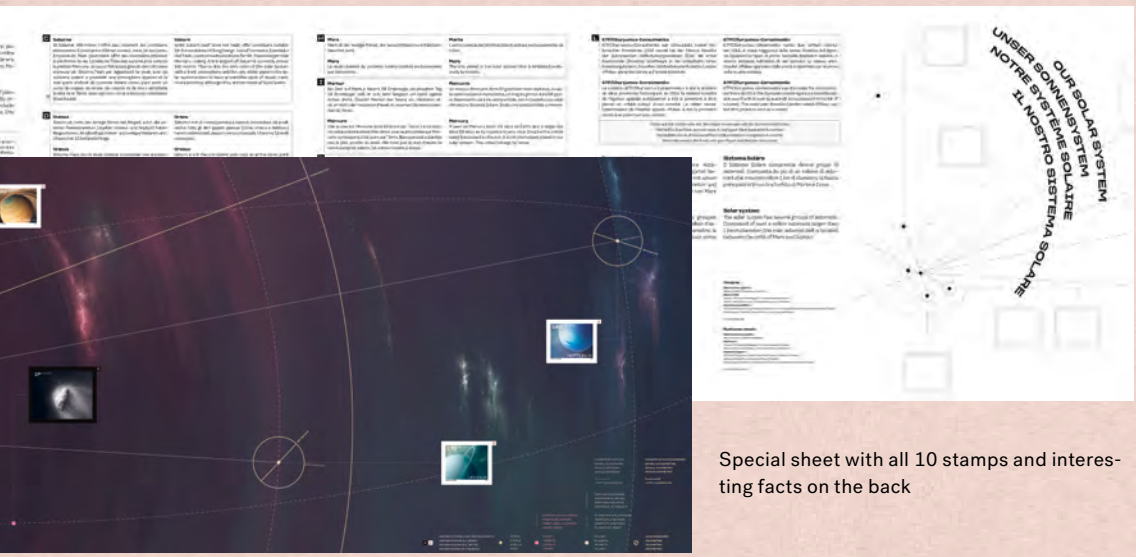
Focus on stamps goes far beyond the universe of stamps! You'll find more information about Switzerland's role in space research in the "Focus" section, pages 8–11.

What is the order of the planets?
Let's go back to the saying that helps us remember the order of our eight main planets by distance from the sun: **M**y (Mercury) **V**ery (Venus) **E**ucated (Earth) **M**other (Mars) **J**ust (Jupiter) **S**erved (Saturn) **U**s (Uranus) **N**achos (Neptune). If, on the other hand, you want to order the planets by size, including the Sun and Moon, you can simply follow the face values on the new stamps in ascending order: starting with the Moon, which, with a diameter of 3,474 kilometres, is four hundred times smaller than the Sun, which has a diameter of about 1.4 million kilometres. By the way: there are 12,742 copies of the special sheet, equal to the average diameter of the earth in kilometres.

Why aren't we thrown out of orbit?
As the name suggests, the Sun is at the centre of the solar system. It's a large star, with an interior that can reach temperatures of up to 15 million degrees Celsius, and is perpetually orbited by a carousel of celestial bodies. It's all about the force of attraction, i.e. the law of gravity: as the biggest celestial body, the Sun attracts smaller bodies. This is counteracted by a second force that determines the distance from the sun: the centrifugal force. Together, the two forces help keep the planets in their orbits around the Sun.

What is the Milky Way?
The Milky Way refers to the galaxy in which our solar system is found. But what does it have to do with milk? When the ancient Greeks looked at the milky band in the night sky, they imagined that the gods had spilled milk. So they gave the bright band the name galaxias, which means milky. Our Milky Way consists of a centre with billions of stars orbiting around it. For one orbit, it takes the Sun more than 200 million years. Our neighbouring galaxy, Andromeda, is around two million light years away. A little fact refresher: one light year measures an impressive 9.46 trillion kilometres. That's the distance light can cover in a year.

What are rocky and gaseous planets?
What are planets actually made of? The four smaller planets – Mercury, Venus, Earth and Mars – have a solid surface and are mainly made up of rock. By contrast, the four larger planets – Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune – consist mostly of gas, primarily hydrogen and helium as a rule. Other features of the various spheres are depicted in the details on the stamps, such as the large storm on Jupiter, solar storms on the Sun and the hexagon on Saturn.



Special sheet with all 10 stamps and interesting facts on the back

Products

Stamps (self-adhesive)

Sheet of 10 stamps
0.05 Moon
★ A588 361 / ⊙ A588 381 / *CHF 0.50*
0.10 Mercury
★ A588 362 / ⊙ A588 382 / *CHF 1.00*
0.20 Mars
★ A588 363 / ⊙ A588 383 / *CHF 2.00*
1.00 Venus
★ A588 364 / ⊙ A588 384 / *CHF 10.00*
1.20 Earth
★ A588 365 / ⊙ A588 385 / *CHF 12.00*
1.40 Neptune
★ A588 366 / ⊙ A588 386 / *CHF 14.00*
1.70 Uranus
★ A588 367 / ⊙ A588 387 / *CHF 17.00*
1.90 Saturn
★ A588 368 / ⊙ A588 388 / *CHF 19.00*
2.00 Jupiter
★ A588 369 / ⊙ A588 389 / *CHF 20.00*
2.50 Sun
★ A588 370 / ⊙ A588 390 / *CHF 25.00*

Set
★ A588 150 / ⊙ A588 550 / *CHF 12.05*

Set of blocks of four
★ A588 160 / ⊙ A588 560 / *CHF 48.20*

Covers

Set on first-day cover E6
⊙ A588 580 / *CHF 13.05*

Single stamp on first-day cover C6 (10 covers)
⊙ A588 600 / *CHF 21.05*

Block of four on first-day cover C6
⊙ A588 630 / *CHF 57.20*

Unstamped covers
C6 (162×114 mm)
★ A588 700 / *CHF 0.90*
E6 (200×140 mm)
★ A588 701 / *CHF 1.00*

Folder/collection sheet A5

★ A588 640 / ⊙ A588 650 / *CHF 13.65*

Special sheet of 10 stamps

Special sheet "Our solar system" with 1×Moon at CHF 0.05, 1×Mercury at CHF 0.10, 1×Mars at CHF 0.20, 1×Venus at CHF 1.00, 1×Earth at CHF 1.20, 1×Neptune at CHF 1.40, 1×Uranus at CHF 1.70, 1×Saturn at CHF 1.90, 1×Jupiter at CHF 2.00 and 1×Sun at CHF 2.50
★ A588 990 / *CHF 19.90*
This product is not supplied with the subscription.

Special cover

10 stamps (face value CHF 12.05) on blue special cover C5, cancelled in silver

⊙ A588 991 / *CHF 19.90*
This product is not supplied with the subscription.

Key
★ mint / ⊙ cancelled

Unusual stamps from around the world

The scent of a horse

This stamp was issued in 2021 by Curaçao, an autonomous Dutch state located in the Caribbean Sea. The stamp is dedicated to the Lusitano horse and has a very special feature: it smells like one, too. This technical feat was achieved during printing, by applying a scented varnish to the stamp.

Philately universe

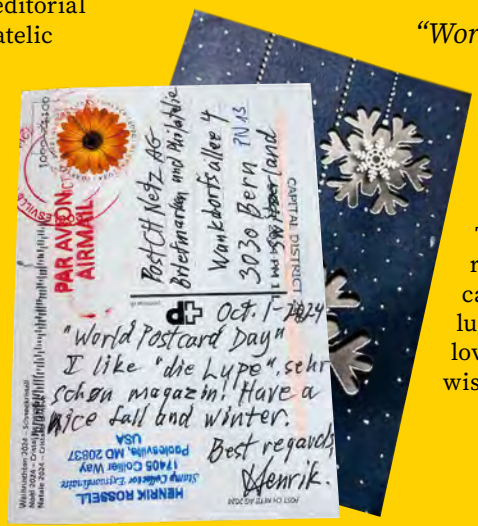
Readers' letters

A reader shared this idea in our (anonymous) "We want to know!" survey in the last issue of Focus on stamps. Replying to the question "Is there anything else you would like to tell us about Focus on stamps?, they suggest: "A marketplace for small ads in connection with stamps, pen pals, buying/selling postcards, old coins, etc."

Focus on stamps editorial team: Dear reader, thank you for sharing your idea with us. Unfortunately, this is a wish we cannot meet, as Focus on stamps is primarily an editorial magazine featuring Swiss Post products and philatelic news. For reasons of space and positioning, we would like to keep to our concept. However, there are numerous platforms online that enable exchanges. We hope you continue to enjoy your philatelic activities, and of course having fun reading Focus on stamps.

A reader praised the collaboration between Swiss Post and the Brändi foundation in Lucerne. (Read the article "Small stamps, big impact" in Focus on stamps 3/24): "Just want to thank you for commissioning this new organization to prepare and pack your stamps."
Heidi Gasche

Focus on stamps editorial team: We're always happy to receive compliments from our readers. Thank you very much Ms Gasche. Swiss Post pursues clearly defined sustainability goals. We place great value on this and, in future, we want to work more closely than ever with sustainable organizations and assume our social responsibility."



"World Postcard Day". I like "Die Lupe", sehr schon magazin! Have a nice fall and winter.

Focus on stamps editorial team: Thank you for your card, Mr Rossell, and for your kind words. The feelings we experience when we receive handwritten letters or postcards are always unique, and you've illustrated that perfectly! We wish you a lovely winter, too, and send you our best wishes from a snowy Switzerland.

Explore

Online MAXIMUM CARDS catalogue

Maximum cards offer varied, colourful designs, each one an eye-catcher in your collection. But what's available? You can find everything easily at maximumkarten.ch by Ralph Maurer, a passionate philatelist. Use is free of charge after registration. This website is available in German only. maximumkarten.ch

Ralph Maurer

Tribute

Bern in the spotlight

Last October, France's La Poste paid tribute to Switzerland's capital. A block of four stamps dedicated to the city of Bern was issued as part of a series on European capitals. The series was launched in 2002 and last year celebrated the 150th anniversary of the Universal Postal Union, an organization created on 9 October 1874 and based in Bern.

Image: Capitale européennes – BERNE | © La Poste

Dialogue

Readers' letters

Share your philatelic discoveries with us, or simply tell us about your reactions as you read the magazine.

stamps@swisspost.ch

Post CH Network Ltd
Swiss Post Contact Center
Stamps & Philately
Wankdorfallee 4
3030 Bern

Social media

Swiss Post is active on the following social networks: Instagram, Facebook, LinkedIn, TikTok, YouTube, X (formerly Twitter). Follow us on the social networks – so you're always up to date. We look forward to reading your comments.

We want to know!

For the quick and anonymous survey, simply scan the QR code:

feedback.post.ch/lupe

Gabriela Bühler supports people at the Swiss Paraplegic Centre with her wealth of experience.

Go to the video profile of Gabriela Bühler

Living an independent life

From the scene of the accident to returning to work and beyond – the Swiss Paraplegic Foundation supports people with spinal cord injuries throughout their lives. This solidarity organization that is unique globally celebrates its 50th anniversary in 2025.

Every other day, someone in Switzerland suffers a spinal cord injury. Guided by the vision of enabling those affected to live as independent and autonomous alife as possible, Dr. Guido A. Zäch founded the Swiss Paraplegic Foundation in 1975. Today, 50 years later, it is one of Switzerland's largest charitable solidarity organizations. Its work is dedicated to holistic rehabilitation. To achieve this, the foundation together with its subsidiaries and partner organizations operates a globally unique network of services that help and support people with tetraplegia and paraplegia on their journey through life: from the scene of the accident or a diagnosis of illness to medical care, rehabilitation and lifelong counselling. Other areas of service include solidarity, education, research and innovation.

Honoured for outstanding service

At the Swiss Paraplegic Centre in Nottwil, you meet many impressive people who are living with paraplegia after an accident or illness and taking a new path in life. Among them are people who achieve extraordinary things and give hope and courage to others affected – like Gabriela Bühler. Last September, she was honoured for her great commitment by the Swiss Paraplegic Foundation on International Spinal Cord Injury Day.

"I've been given perspective"

Gabriela Bühler loves sport and being outdoors. In 2007, the Ennetbürgen native and two friends had an accident in the mountains. Her friends were killed, and she has been in a wheelchair ever since. "I'm glad I survived. The wheelchair gave me a new perspective. I knew that I could work as a teacher and do sport again," says the 52-year-old. Shortly after her rehabilitation at the Swiss Paraplegic Centre, the ambitious tennis player returned to the tennis court and embarked on a successful career in wheelchair tennis: "Sport helped me to become independent again and participate in life". In addition to her career as a top athlete, which she ended last year, Gabriela Bühler also serves as an athlete representative on the Foundation Board of Swiss Paralympic and as an association representative of Wheelchair Sport Switzerland at Swiss Olympic. Since 2015, the trained teacher has been working as a peer counsellor at the Swiss Paraplegic Centre, a role in which she helps recently injured people by sharing her experiences and supporting them on their way back to everyday life. "I can give something to others with my story and make the lives of patients a little easier. Making a difference gives me great satisfaction."

Inclusion at Swiss Post

As one of the biggest employers in Switzerland, Swiss Post has a great social responsibility. It works to promote the inclusion of people with disabilities and is actively committed to maintaining employees' ability to work. Swiss Post trains apprentices with disabilities. It also offers people with disabilities from the dual labour market the opportunity to participate in everyday working life.

Postal card

Scan the stamps and find out more

Single stamp on first-day cover C6

Photo: Adrian Baer, Swiss Paraplegic Foundation

Products

Stamps

Sheet of 20 stamps
★ A586 111 / ⊙ A586 511 / *CHF 24.00*

Single stamp
★ A586 150 / ⊙ A586 550 / *CHF 1.20*

Block of four
★ A586 160 / ⊙ A586 560 / *CHF 4.80*

Covers

Single stamp on first-day cover C6
⊙ A586 580 / *CHF 2.10*

Block of four on first-day cover C6
⊙ A586 630 / *CHF 5.70*

Unstamped cover C6
★ A586 700 / *CHF 0.90*

Folder/collection sheet A5

★ A586 640 / ⊙ A586 650 / *CHF 2.00*

Postal stationery

Postal card A6, face value and CHF 1.00 for the card

★ A586 841 / ⊙ A586 846 / *CHF 2.20*

Key
★ mint / ⊙ cancelled

Technical information

Sales
Philately: from 27.2.2025 to 30.4.2025 or while stocks last
Branches: from 6.3.2025 to 30.4.2025 or while stocks last

Validity
Unlimited from 6.3.2025

Printing Offset, 4-colour; Cartor Security Printers, Meaucé-La Loupe, France

Formats
Stamp: 33×28 mm
Sheet: 194×140 mm
4 rows of 5 stamps

Paper
White stamp paper, with optical brightener, matt gummed, 110 gm²

Perforation 13¼:13¼
Design Walter Eggenberger, Nottwil

Simply order at postshop.ch

Special edition

1,000th “Samschtig-Jass”

In 1967, the show “Samschtig-Jass” went out for the first time on Swiss television. It is now the oldest entertainment programme still on air in Europe and was broadcast to Swiss living rooms for the 1,000th time in January 2025. Swiss Post is celebrating this milestone with a limited special issue of the “Swiss Jass” sheetlet.

Samschtig-Jass was dreamt up in 1967 by Kurt Felix as Switzerland’s first interactive television format. The show features “Differenzler Jass” rounds, played in both rustic restaurants and unusual locations. For entertainment and atmosphere, there are musical interludes between the three rounds of play. On 4 January 2025, SRF1 broadcast its 1,000th show. To celebrate the event – by looking back to the first broadcast in 1967 – 1,967 copies of the “Swiss Jass” sheetlet from 2018 were overprinted. And because it’s the 1,000th show, the special limited issue costs 1,000 centimes. The actual face value of the sheetlet is 8 francs. Swiss Post is donating the additional proceeds of 2 francs per sheet to the Swiss Red Cross.

Limited special issue of 1,967 sheetlets

The limited special issue of the “Swiss Jass” sheetlet is available to order at postshop.ch from 6 March 2025. A maximum of three sheetlets can be purchased per order.

Sheetlet
★ A625 990 / *CHF 10.00*
This product is not supplied with the subscription.

Key
★ mint / ⊙ cancelled

Most beautiful Swiss stamp of 2024

Magnificent giant of the Ice Age

The woolly mammoth has captured the hearts of Internet users. The design featuring this animal, part of the "Giants of the Ice Age" series, was voted the most beautiful stamp of 2024. This stamp invites you to travel back in time and discover the prehistoric animal kingdom. The presence of the mammoth in Switzerland has been documented at many sites and dates back around 115,000 years. Second place in our competition went to the "Swiss tourist attractions – Landwasser Viaduct" stamp, while the lovely "Ladybird" from the "Animal symbolism" series came in third. More than 13,000 people took part in the online vote, which ran from 26 September to 8 December 2024 at swisspost.ch/world-of-stamps.

Limited issue of 2,024 copies

Order using an order form or at postshop.ch

Product

Most beautiful stamp of 2024

Special cover E6 (140 × 200 mm)
⊙ A623 990 / *CHF 9.90*

Key
★ mint / ⊙ cancelled

Creativity meets tradition

Great innovation potential in small works of art

During their study week in October 2024, the students of FHGR (University of Applied Sciences of the Grisons) gained fascinating insights into various large companies. For our part, we held an innovation workshop with the young people and discussed the potential of stamps and their products at length. The students found the diversity and innovative potential of our stamps remarkable. When working on various small case studies, they really impressed us with their fresh and creative ideas.

"It's always great to also be able to surprise young people with the topic of stamps and their innovative power and modernity. Many of the students were amazed at what goes on behind the scenes and how many options and possibilities there are for a topic that for many people tends to come across as dusty and old-fashioned," says Julien Jordan, Stamps & Philately Product Manager and leader of the workshop.

Event calendar

See you soon?

6 March

Issue date 1/2025

27 March

Publication date of Focus on stamps 2/2025

8 May

Issue date 2/2025

14 to 17 May

BERNABA in Bern, CH
Visit our sales stand with cancellation service

24 July

Publication date of Focus on stamps 3/2025

4 September

Issue date 3/2025

25 September

Publication date of Focus on stamps 4/2025

6 November

Issue date 4/2025

The right to make updates and changes is reserved. The latest version can always be found at swisspost.ch/collecting-stamps.

Issuing programme

Anticipation is the greatest feeling

Issue date: 8 May 2025
Featured in: Focus on stamps 2/2025

1.00	**Guillaume Henri Dufour 1787–1875**
1.00+0.50	**BERNABA 2025**
1.20	**Swiss Wrestling and Alpine Festival 2025 Glarnerland+**
4.40	**Summer**
1.00	Apple
1.00	Pear
1.20	Strawberry
1.20	Cherries
1.20	**Women's European Football Championship 2025**
1.20	**100 years Goldau Nature Reserve and Wildlife Park**
2.40	**EUROPA – National archaeological discoveries**
1.20	Kyburg gauntlet
1.20	Bronze hand of Prêles
3.30	**Pro Patria – Valais bisses**
1.00+0.50	Bisse de Gorperi
1.20+0.60	Grand Bisse de Lens

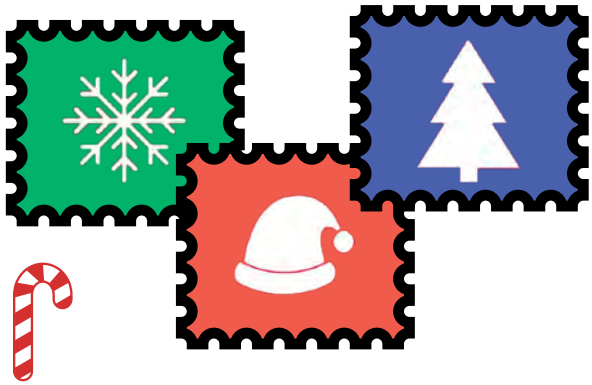
Subject to change.
As at December 2024.

Christmas stamps 2025

Why not join in?

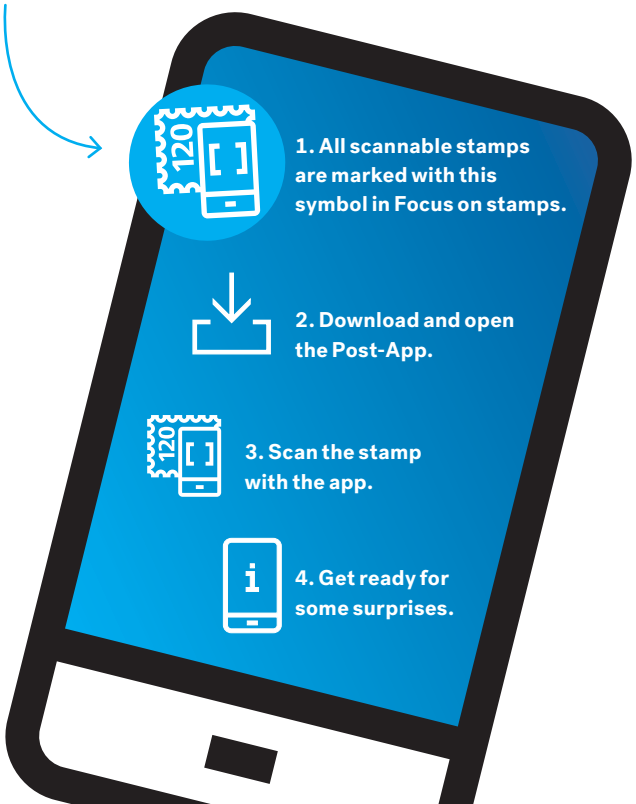
One Christmas goes, another one nears.

Which designs would you like to see on the next Christmas stamps? From 18 to 28 February 2025, you can cast your vote at swisspost.ch/stamps and with a little luck win a great prize.



The (digital) world of stamps

A world of discovery


1. All scannable stamps are marked with this symbol in Focus on stamps.
2. Download and open the Post-App.
3. Scan the stamp with the app.
4. Get ready for some surprises.

Fun for young and old alike

New at postshop.ch: stamp socks!

Discover our collection and find your favourite pair.

Discover our three unique designs – there's something for everyone! Whether you like it simple and classic or want to set colourful accents. You'll love our sustainable socks which feature stamps from 2024 with their creative designs. They're also OEKO-TEX®-certified to ensure that you feel good with every step.

These socks are ideal for yourself or as a gift. With their medium-length leg and wide comfort cuff, they offer optimum support. Reinforced heel and toe areas ensure added durability. The almost seamless socks with flat seams ensure maximum comfort – perfect for everyday use and special occasions.

Price: Adults CHF 15.90, children CHF 9.90

Design 2 (Yellow Collection)
Sizes 36–40 and 41–46
Children's size 4–6 years

Design 1 (Black Collection)
Sizes 36–40 and 41–46

Design 3 (White Collection)
Sizes 36–40 and 41–46

Order now at postshop.ch

International stamp exhibitions 2024

Missed a philatelic event?

The exhibition covers issued especially for the trade fairs and sold exclusively on-site can now be ordered as a set. Swiss Post took part in the following exhibitions:

24 to 26 October 2024
International Stamp Fair in Ulm (DE)

7 to 9 November 2024
Salon philatélique d'Automne in Paris (FR)

21 to 23 November 2024
Veronafil 2024 in Verona (IT)

Product

Set of 3 exhibition covers C6
⊙ A581 450 / *CHF 9.50*

Key
★ mint / ⊙ cancelled

Colourful stamps

All your heart desires

2024 year set

2024 year set with
first-day covers (FDC)

2024 year book

Stamp catalogue
Zumstein

Swiss
stamp catalogue

Products

Issue set with single stamps 1/2025
The single stamps and sets in the 1/2025 issue are displayed on a free A5 backing card and protected with cellophane wrapping.
★ A590 150 / ⊙ A590 550 / *CHF 24.95*

Issue set with first-day covers (FDC) 1/2025
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Key
★ mint / ⊙ cancelled

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2.

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1.

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✗ _____
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6. **„Mauritius“**
in purem 999/1000 Feinsilber!

Originalgrösse: 21 x 25 mm

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„60 Jahre Patrouille Suisse“!

In Farbe!

5.

Fr. 9.90
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